

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/996,249 12/22/97 SAMS

R 197-0216

PM82/0726

EXAMINER

JOHN G. CHUPA. ESQ.
31313 NORTH WESTERN HIGHWAY
SUITE 205
FARMINGTON, HILLS MI 48334

BINDA, G
ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

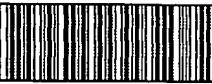
3629
DATE MAILED:

07/26/01

108

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No. 08/996,249	Applicant(s) Sams et al
	Examiner Greg Binda	Art Unit 3629
		
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>		
Period for Reply		
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>three</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 		
Status		
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>May 4, 2001</u>		
2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.		
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.		
Disposition of Claims		
4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>13</u> is/are pending in the application.		
4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.		
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.		
6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>13</u> is/are rejected.		
7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.		
8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.		
Application Papers		
9) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.		
10) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on <u>Aug 30, 1999</u> is/are objected to by the Examiner.		
11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved.		
12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119		
13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).		
a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some* c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of:		
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.		
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.		
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).		
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.		
14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).		
Attachment(s)		
15) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)		
16) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)		
17) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____		
18) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____		
19) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)		
20) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		

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1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Continued Prosecution Application

2. The request filed on May 4, 2001 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 08/996,249 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because:
 - a. The drawings do not show a tripod assembly comprising both a bearing assembly with an inner race (claim 13, line 5) AND a snap ring (line 14).
 - b. The drawings fail to show the claimed invention fully assembled.

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected to because “trunnion” is misspelled throughout the specification and the abstract. See *Merriam- Webster*, p. 1269.
5. The specification is objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.71 and 1.75(d)(1) because the detailed description fails to provide proper antecedent basis for the following claimed

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subject matter: a pre-assembled bearing assembly comprising an inner race as recited in claim 13, lines 4 & 5. Bearing assembly 40, the only bearing assembly comprising an inner race, is not described as pre-assembled. Bearing assembly 60, the only bearing assembly described as pre-assembled, is not described as comprising an inner race.

Claim Objections

6. Claim 13 is objected to because "trunnion" is misspelled throughout the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

7. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a. Line 11 recites the limitation "the base". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

b. It is not clear if the spider assembly includes or excludes a trunnion. In line 2 the trunnion is recited as a part of the spider assembly (which matches the description in the specification on page 3, lines 28 & 29), but in lines 11-13 of the claim, the trunnion is twice recited as something separate from the spider assembly (see "said [trunnion] adjacent said spider assembly and "said [trunnion], opposite said spider assembly".

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Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action. Allowable material is indicated because the prior art of record does not show or suggest a tripod bearing assembly having all the limitations of the claim. Itoh et al, US 5,707,293, shows many of the limitations, but teaches away from a press-fit in col. 3, lines 5, 6 & 62-65. Hosdez et al, US 5,803,813, shows many of the limitations, but does not show or suggest a snap ring or snap ring groove.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greg Binda whose telephone number is (703) 305-2869. The examiner can normally be reached Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 am to 7:00 pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Mondays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne, can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 306-4195, 305-3597 and 305-7687.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.



Greg Binda
Patent Examiner